

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 VO-03 L-02

H-01 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /058 W

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R 211252Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2010

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, K, IR, US

SUBJECT: KUWAITI VISAS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

REF: A. LONDON 00860 (NOTAL) B. TEHRAN 0599 (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS DESCRIBE RECENT CASES IN WHICH KUWAITI EMBASSIES HAVE REFUSED TO GRANT VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. CONTENTS WERE DISCUSSED ON JANUARY 21 BY DCM AND CONSUL WITH JASEM BAHMAN, HEAD OF CONSULAR SECTION, GOK MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. BAHMAN DEPLORED BOTH INCIDENTS AND PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN EARLY 1974, FOLLOWING TERRORIST ATTACK ON LOCAL JAPANESE EMBASSY, GOK FORMIN INSTRUCTED ALL GOK EMBASSY AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT NORMALLY ISSUE KUWAITI VISAS TO NON-RESIDENTS RPT NON-RESIDENTS OF THEIR AREA OF CONSULAR JURISDICTION. ON OTHER HAND, CIRCULAR ALLEGEDLY MADE CLEAR THAT GOK CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD BROAD DISCRETION TO ISSUE VISAS IF PROSPECTIVE VISITOR APPEARED TO HAVE LEGITIMATE REASON TO TRAVEL TO KUWAIT AND APPLICATION IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WOULD BE CAUSE FOR INCONVENIENCE. PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR WAS TO CONTROL POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND WAS APPLICABLE TO ALL NATIONALITIES. HE ASSURED

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EMBOFFS THAT GOK HAD ISSUED NO SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS TO

GOK CONSULAR OFFICIALS (ALTHOUGH CLARIFICATION HAD BEEN SENT TO GOK EMBASSY LONDON RECENTLY) AND THAT FORMIN HAD NOT AUTHORIZED NOR WOULD IT ACCEPT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US NATIONALS. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE COPIES OF SUBJECT CIRCULAR AND GOK REGULATIONS WHICH EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT.

3. FOR TEHRAN: BAHMAN SAID ITS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN HAD ERRED IN REFUSING VISA IN CASE DESCRIBED REFTEL (B) AND THAT MATTER WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION FORMIN UNDER SECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID.

4. FOR LONDON: BAHMAN EXPRESSED REGRET FOR INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL (A) AND SAID INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT TO KUWAITI EMBASSY LONDON TO AVOID FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

5. FOR TEHRAN AND LONDON: BAHMAN ASKED THAT WE ASSURE YOU INCIDENTS OF KIND DESCRIBED SHOULD NOT OCCUR IN FUTURE BUT, IF FUTURE DIFFICULTIES SHOULD ARISE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IMMEDIATELY (THROUGH EMBASSY KUWAIT) IN ORDER THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.
STOLTZFUS

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